

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1-14. (cancelled)
15. (currently amended) A genetic construct for the ~~selective~~-expression of a nucleic acid sequence in plant stomatal guard cells, said construct ~~containing~~ comprising: the nucleic acid sequence functionally linked to the promoter of SEQ ID No-NO: 1, or to a fragment ~~or variant~~ thereof having promoter activity.
16. (currently amended) The construct of claim 15, wherein said promoter fragment contains SEQ ID ~~No-NO: 2~~.
17. (withdrawn - currently amended) The construct of claim 15, wherein said promoter fragment contains SEQ ID ~~No-NO: 3~~.
18. (withdrawn - currently amended) The construct of claim 15, wherein said promoter fragment contains SEQ ID ~~No-NO: 4~~.
19. (withdrawn) The construct of claim 15, wherein the nucleic acid sequence or the encoded product are involved in the

intracellular signalling pathway modulated by abscisic acid (ABA).

20. **(withdrawn)** The construct of claim 19, wherein said nucleic acid sequence contains the coding sequences of Osml, Rac1, Kat1, Ost1 or Chl1 genes.

21. **(withdrawn)** The construct of claim 19, wherein said nucleic acid sequence codes for an antisense RNA.

22. **(previously presented)** A plant expression vector containing a genetic construct according to claim 15.

23. **(previously presented)** The vector of claim 22, which is a bacterial plasmid, a bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC), a yeast artificial chromosome (YAC), a viral vector or a vector for Agrobacterium-mediated DNA transfer.

24. **(previously presented)** The vector of claim 22, which is a binary vector for Agrobacterium-mediated DNA transfer.

25. **(previously presented)** A monocotyledonous or dicotyledonous plant containing a vector according to claim 22.

26. (withdrawn - currently amended) A method for the ~~selective~~-expression of nucleic acid sequences in stomatal guard cells, said method comprising introducing into said stomatal guard cells a vector according to claim 22.

27. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 26, wherein said heterologous sequence is involved in the regulation of stoma aperture/closure.

28. (withdrawn) A method for regulating the expression of nucleic acid sequences in a plant, which comprises introducing in said plant, in a vegetative or reproductive part thereof, a genetic construct according to claim 15.

29. (previously presented) A monocotyledonous or dicotyledonous plant containing a construct according to claim 15.

30. (withdrawn - currently amended) A method for the ~~selective~~-expression of nucleic acid sequences in stomatal guard cells, said method comprising introducing into said stomatal guard cells a construct according to claim 15.

31. (withdrawn) A method for regulating the expression of nucleic acid sequences in a plant, which comprises introducing in

said plant, in a vegetative or reproductive part thereof, a vector according to claim 22.

32. (new) A genetic construct for the expression of a nucleic acid sequence in plant stomatal guard cells, said construct comprising: the nucleic acid sequence functionally linked to the promoter of SEQ ID NO: 1, or to the promoter having at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1 and that has the activity of said promoter.